

# CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

Present: Cllr M. Reeve (Chair), S. Legg, F. Eames and I. Keam (quorate).

Also Present: Cllr Duncan Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward.

In Attendance: Danielle Gilpin (Clerk)

There were 2 members of the public present

7.00pm	<b>The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.</b>
	<p><b>Public Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) No Police report received.</li><li>ii) No P3 (footpath) report received. Footbridge at Gosleford, Birchill over the kit, that was previously reported, has been repaired. A post and handrail still to be completed.</li><li>iii) a) Cllr. Cathy Connor, Devon County Council, Whimple and Blackdown division, not in attendance and no report received in advance. b) Cllr. D Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward stated in his report that he had emailed to ask if we wanted to receive an email newsletter. He wanted to know where parish councils felt they needed more help and support. Wanted to check that we had received an invite to the Devon Local Government reorganisation meetings. It was confirmed that we had, and that Cllr. Greer had attended. It was confirmed that there would be a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November to confirm the submission which was due for submission on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Torbay &amp; Plymouth want to remain unitary. An offer of solution has to be provided. Currently looking at a 4-5-1 based on districts. The Secretary of State will make the final decision. A grant for village buildings has been sent across which may not be directly applicable for the parish council but could benefit the community, e.g., The George Inn, playground, etc.</li><li>iv) There were 2 members of the public present.  George Inn agenda item 25/079 e) to be discussed in the public forum.  The George Inn chair confirmed that the plan is to submit the community right to bid nomination form as is along with some additional information. Danielle Gilpin to send across the application forms as soon as possible. Would like to review the forms with the parish council before the next meeting. It was advised that the Plunkett Foundation renewal was required costing £270.00, which he formally requested. Advised to complete a grant application form, which Danielle Gilpin, will send across, for formal review and approval. It was advised that the current George Inn owners are looking for a</li></ul>

	<p>change of use to maximise shareholders profit by selling off properties that are not commercially viable, which is resulting in the pub being run into the ground. It appears that no-one wants to fight against them.</p> <p>It was commented that the flag at the war memorial needed replacing. Danielle Gilpin to source replacement.</p> <p><b>The Chair closed Public Forum session at 7.15pm.</b></p>
7.15pm	1 member of the public left the meeting
7.16pm	<b>Meeting Commences</b>
25/072 i)	<p><b>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance:</b></p> <p>As listed above.</p>
25/072 ii)	<p><b>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1))</b></p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr Greer and Cllr Hughes.</p>
25/072 iii)	<p><b>To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence:</b></p> <p>No apologies were received.</p>
25/073	<p><b>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest at this time.</p> <p>Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent.</p>
25/074	<p><b>To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960:</b></p> <p>Budget.</p>
25/075	<p><b>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025:</b></p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Reeve, seconded by Cllr. Legg and approved by all.</p>
25/076	<p><b>To consider and approve the Parish Clerk's request for funding to undertake the SLCC Introduction to Local Council Administration course (ILCA) and membership to SLCC for the Parish Clerk, and to consider the budget allocation for this purpose:</b></p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Reeve, seconded by Cllr Keam, and approved by all.</p>
25/077	<p><b>Planning matters to be considered:</b></p> <p>a) i) <b>To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication:</b></p> <p>None received</p>

	<p><b>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p> <p><b>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p> <p><b>c) Tree Matters:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p> <p><b>d) Appeals lodged / in progress:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p> <p><b>e) Planning correspondence received:</b></p> <p>The Vicarage, Chardstock. Correspondence from Planning Department confirmed that a planning application had been submitted but that it was currently invalid and the planning officers were working with the owners to make the application valid.</p> <p><b>f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p>
25/078	<p><b>Financial Matters to be considered:</b></p> <p><b>a) To note approval by the Chair of the Council's Payments for October 2025:</b></p> <p>Resolved that Council payments for October 2025 (£1,895.77) to be approved.</p> <p><b>b) To receive and note RFO report for October 2025:</b></p> <p>DG to request guidance on what to report from previous clerk.</p> <p><b>c) Questions to the RFO on accounts / financial reports:</b></p> <p>None.</p> <p><b>d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority: (Financial Regulations May 20215.4.1 and Delegation Appendix).</b></p> <p>None.</p> <p><b>e) To consider any grant application forms.</b></p> <p>None received.</p> <p><b>f) To consider the budget setting for 2026/27</b></p> <p>To be discussed during the confidential session.</p>

	<b>Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:</b>
25/079	<p><b>“Matters of Council consideration may include public participation if so invited by Chair”</b></p> <p><b>a) To consider parish maintenance, highways and footpath (P3) matters:</b></p> <p>Footbridge at Gosleford as per earlier comments.</p>
	<p><b>b) To consider any matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish (Hon. Tree Warden, Michael Davis, to provide notes for the Councillors, previously circulated):</b></p> <p>None received.</p> <p><b>c) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish:</b></p> <p> Chardstock Ecology Group provided the following brief:</p> <p>Chardstock Eco Group (CEG) – Parish Ecology and Climate action update (November 25)</p> <p>Moth Presentation (October) – raising awareness of moths’ ecological importance and examining how we can support them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker: Rob Grimmond (Chair, Somerset Moth Group)</li> <li>• Topic: The Weird &amp; Wonderful Of Moths</li> <li>• Attendance: 45</li> <li>• Included live moth display</li> </ul> <p>Lichen Foray – Dennings Down Organic Farm – Exploring the ecological importance of lichens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised by CEG Treasurer Daniel Lazar</li> <li>• Guide: Fred Gibson (advisor, DWT’s Saving Devon’s Treescapes Project)</li> <li>• Attendance: 13 (max 12 spaces were in high demand)</li> <li>• Topic: A Lovely Look at Lichens</li> <li>• Included microscope examination of lichen structures (microscope loaned by CEG from Blackdown Hills Partnership)</li> </ul> <p>CEG Subgroup – The Wilder Chardstock Community – Developing local ‘greening’ and nature connection projects</p> <p>Churchyard Biodiversity Project – improving biodiversity within the church grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife pond now planted with oxygenating species</li> <li>• Bulb planting event funded by £300 grant (CAG Devon) + £200 donation (CEG)</li> <li>• 1,500 native bulbs (daffodils, snowdrops, crocus, bluebells, fritillaries) planted</li> <li>• Due to tight timeframe no opportunity to advertise event in parish newsletter, 23 volunteers recruited from CEG database, included residents of Chardstock parish and from Chard, Axminster and Membury</li> <li>• Very positive feedback from St Andrews PCC and volunteers</li> </ul>

Community Hall Planters – provision of food and shelter sources for wildlife

- Refreshed by CEG steering team members Fi Conway and Sue Mikulik
- Replanted with hardy perennials and native spring bulbs to support pollinators over winter

School – engaging young people to build environmental awareness awareness and commitment – eco team of 9-11 year old volunteer pupils

- Weekly eco team sessions – led by CEG administrator Gill Keam and CEG Chair Ian Keam – resumed on 6<sup>th</sup> November
- 18 pupils participated in indoor planting of 200+ bulbs for observation and outdoor transplanting.

Community Garden Development – creating a community space to connect with nature and one another

- Initial funding bid to Rivers Run Through Us unsuccessful
- Following an approach by Hannah Metson (Blackdown Hills) awaiting meeting regarding alternative funding options.

Blackdown Hills have found an alternative fund and would like to offer some money. There was a call today to confirm funding and there were some questions for the parish council. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 is the deadline for spending the funds offered (some clarity required on whether having started the work by this date would be sufficient). Happy to meet with the parish council to discuss. Some clarity is also required around planning permission which Cllr, Mackinder has offered to support.

**d) To consider ongoing work on the Emergency Planning for parishes:**

Cllr Keam has been working with Membury and this is ongoing. Very close to using Membury as the base for Chardstock's.

**e) To consider information relating to The George Inn:**

As per earlier discussion point.

**f) To discuss Chardstock Play Park:**

Contractor has confirmed that the quote for the groundworks still stands and that his yard is filling with soil. Their preference is to complete all the work in one go. Discussion around when would be best to start the work and it was proposed to start in January of the new year.

**g) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the October 2025 edition:**

RESOLVED that the following be submitted for the next edition of the community newsletter:

Advise the parishioners that there may be a possible closure for the groundworks on the grounds of health & safety.

25/080	<p><b>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for noting only:</b></p> <p>None received.</p>
25/081	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>The next Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm.</p>
25/082	<p><b>"It is proposed by the Chair that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Local Government Act 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Members to agree upon matters to be discussed in confidential session, as per agenda item 25/040 above."</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items.</p>
25/083	<p><b>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business:</b></p> <p><b>a) Staffing/budget:</b></p> <p>2026/27 budget and precept planning</p>
	<p><b>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.54pm</b></p>

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.**

Signed:  Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (Chair)

Initial: 